

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of outputting an alert indicating that an unauthorized event has occurred, the method comprising:
 - obtaining a status from a sensor;
 - retrieving personnel information from a database, the personnel information relating to the sensor;
 - generating the alert;
 - applying a filter to determine whether to modify a severity of the alert; and
 - outputting the alert.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising retrieving information relating to a prior event from the database.
3. The method of claim 1, further comprising accumulating the alert.
4. The method of claim 1, further comprising re-evaluating the severity of the alert.
5. The method of claim 1, further comprising re-evaluating an uncertainty of the alert.
6. The method of claim 1, further comprising applying a filter to determine whether to limit outputting of the alert.
7. The method of claim 1, further comprising outputting a recommendation relating to the alert.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein obtaining a status from a sensor includes obtaining a status from one of an infrared sensor, a physical sensor, a motion detection sensor, a wireless sensor, an audio pattern recognition device, a video pattern recognition device, a card reader, a

biometric sensor, a software monitoring device, a trip wire, an electric eye, a pressure sensor, an access panel switch, a door switch, a microwave sensor, and a System Network Management Protocol (SNMP) trap source/event message.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein outputting the alert includes outputting one of a telephone message, an electronic message, a pager message, a visual indication, and an auditory indication.

10. A system for outputting an alert, the system comprising:

a sensor interface;

a database; and

an alert processor in communication with the sensor interface and the database, wherein the alert processor is configured to retrieve personnel information from the database, wherein the personnel information relating to a sensor, generate the alert, apply a filter to determine whether to modify a severity of the alert, and output the alert.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein the alert processor includes an alert generation module.

12. The system of claim 10, wherein the alert processor includes an input module

13. The system of claim 10, wherein the alert processor includes a filter module.

14. The system of claim 10, wherein the alert processor includes an alert uncertainty and severity estimation module.

15. The system of claim 10, wherein the alert processor includes a rule and algorithm update module.

16. The system of claim 10, wherein the alert processor includes a filter/mode selection module.

17. The system of claim 10, wherein the alert processor includes an alert output module.

18. A computer readable medium having stored thereon instructions which, when executed, cause a processor to:

obtain a status from a sensor;

retrieve personnel information from a database, the personnel information relating to the sensor;

generate an alert;

apply a filter to determine whether to modify a severity of the alert; and

output the alert.

19. The computer readable medium of claim 18, having stored thereon additional instructions that cause the processor to obtain a status from one of an infrared sensor, a physical sensor, a motion detection sensor, a wireless sensor, an audio pattern recognition device, a video pattern recognition device, a card reader, a biometric sensor, a software monitoring device, a trip wire, an electric eye, a pressure sensor, an access panel switch, a door switch, a microwave sensor, and a System Network Management Protocol (SNMP) trap source/event message.

20. The computer readable medium of claim 18, having stored thereon additional instructions that cause the processor to output one of a telephone message, an electronic message, a pager message, a visual indication, and an auditory indication.